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I cannot find the truth that men have told,  
But only know the beauty of a song;  
And nothing truer than the white sea-foam  
Feathering where the gold beach-grass is long.

Or truer than a high complacent pine  
That stands upon a lifted hill;  
Or any eloquence of harmony  
Telling as much as when a wind falls still.

He writes of "such simple miracles as song and spring," of "yellow iris wading at the edge" of a pool, of "the slender fingers of an April rain," and of "unopened violets catching the hour's first sunlight as a crown." He is fascinated by the charm of things about him, and he has that gift of language which can convey to others some of the emotions which stir in his breast. If he fulfills the promise of this volume we shall in a few years have an American poet of whom we can be proud.

THE COBBLER IN WILLOW STREET, AND OTHER POEMS. By George O'Neil. New York: Dutton & Co., \$1.25.

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## BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG OF BOTH SEXES

About Birds and the War and Heroes and Heroines and Other Things

J. Walker McSpadden, who is one of the most popular of "popularizers," and who has condensed Shakespeare and Dickens and opera librettos and many another author of interest, has followed his customary method of concise and graphic presentation in "The Boys' Book of Famous Soldiers." Among his subjects are Washington, Grant, Lee, Napoleon, Wellington, Goussin, Roberts, Kitchener, and of the recent world war, Haig, Joffre, Foch and Pershing. Mr. McSpadden incorporates a good deal of useful information, carefully verified, and his book, while written in readable style, is very free from "heroizing" or the kind of mawkishness that such books are singularly liable to.

The field of Charles H. L. Johnston's "Famous Generals of the Great War," as the title indicates, is more restricted than that of Mr. McSpadden's work. And Mr. Johnston just can't help sentimentalizing. His stories, which are full of interesting data and rich in anecdotes of the subjects, very often read like the average Sunday newspaper supplement. However, the extraordinary character sketches of personalities which have plunged into the news. Doubtless military and political critics will take exception to some of Mr. Johnston's appraisals. The fault, if indeed this is a fault, in Mr. Johnston's book is that it has no sense of the comparative—all is superlative. But lots of people want their heroes 100 per cent, and Mr. Johnston might be pointed out that his estimate of Field Marshal Foch, for instance, will not be concurred in by the majority of British military men or statesmen; his attacks on the dead Kitchener have stirred a big row in British army circles, and former Premier Asquith, who was at the head of the government over the period when France was falling in Flanders and Foch (for which he was afterwards forgiven) has discredited much of the marshal's claims made in his lately published war book. In addition to such prominent personalities of the war as Joffre, Yvon Lambert of Belgium, Pershing, Haig and Diaz, sketches, very valuable, are given of Petain, Aleneur, D'Esperey, De Castelnau, Jan Smuts, Stanley Maude and Julian Byng.

In "The Boys' Book of Battles" Chelsea Curtis Fraser tells interestingly the stories of eleven famous land combats. They include Bunker Hill, Saratoga, Yorktown, Ansteritz, Waterloo, Gettysburg, Sedan, Ypres, Verdun, second Marne, Argonne-Meuse. The book is well illustrated.

"Thornton Burgess's Book of Birds" tells in the familiar and easy-to-read style of this favorite writer for the younger children the life stories of some of our best-known and best-loved native birds. Louis Agassiz's "Fishes," one of the most popular of his works, furnishes a liberal supply of lifelike illustrations, many of them in color.

"Singing Games for Children" are written by Eleanor Farjeon and stories of nature. Full directions are given for staging the several pieces and the metrical text is liberally interspersed with illustrations. The book is well illustrated.

A classic much beloved by the Italian children is made available for their American friends in "The Little Lead Soldier." The story which the writer, Anna Franconi, has written about the boy and his adventures, and in it is told with liveliness and distinction. S. F. Woodruff, who has turned it into English for the first time, has done a creditable and admirable job. The illustrations by Hattie L. Price are effective.

"Pioneers of America" tells in easy-going story form, yet with historical accuracy, some heros of the days when America was not the great republic that it has grown to be, but was a wilderness offering opportunity to the brave and brave and brainy to hew out a new nation. La Salle, Boone, Pontiac, Lewis and Clark and other well-known figures of the early days appear in the pages. The authors are Albert Blaisdell and F. K. Hall, both well-known writers for the younger generation.

"Billy Vanilla" had a real name of William McMillan. His friends were the Shaggy Boy, with his woolly things for cold weather; the Boy a Thousand Years Old, who knew almost everything; the Man With the Red Whiskers, who was as good and kind as he was strong; the Little Old Lady, who wasn't so very old after all; Little Silver Locks, just a girl, but a likable one; and Carlo, that had to have a part in and of everything, even the cream caramels. There were many snowbirds and some other birds, more dogs than Carlo, and even some wolves, and one big red bear that fortunately was a coward. These children hunted for buried treasure, organized a crusade, went in search of the North Pole, and partied in some very exciting times. A delightful story for boys and girls from five to ten.

BOYS' BOOK OF FAMOUS SOLDIERS. By J. Walker McSpadden. New York: T. Y. Crowell Co., \$1.25.

FAMOUS GENERALS OF THE GREAT WAR. By Charles H. L. Johnston. New York: T. Y. Crowell Co., \$1.25.

THE BOYS' BOOK OF BATTLES. By Chelsea Curtis Fraser. New York: T. Y. Crowell Co., \$1.25.

THE LITTLE LEAD SOLDIER. By Anna Franconi. Translated by S. F. Woodruff. New York: T. Y. Crowell Co., \$1.25.

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SINGING GAMES FOR CHILDREN. By Eleanor Farjeon. New York: T. Y. Crowell Co., \$1.25.

## FROM BROADWAY TO THE TRENCHES

Sgt. Woolcott Writes Doughboy's Book on Doughboys. Other War Books

From the risks and rousings of Broadway, where he was a first-nighter employed by a newspaper to analyze, criticize and maybe deodorize the new shows for the advice and information of the public, Alexander Woolcott, by virtue of the astonishing mutations of the war, found himself in Paris and at the various fronts as a reporter for The Stars and Stripes, the official weekly of the A. E. F.

In "The Command is Forward," Mr. Woolcott has gathered from the files of the Stars and Stripes a number of articles written long ago, but a newspaperman's keenness of observation and surety of impression. He had especially favorable auspices under which to do his war reporting as the chief correspondent of the A. E. F. official newspaper, and made so much of his opportunities that this anthology of what he considers best worth preservation of his writings as a member of its staff makes one of the most human books of the war, a distinction which it shares with a book on the earlier phases of the war of the A. E. F. by his fellow-Gotham dramatic critic, Heywood Brown. Mr. Woolcott has written no work on strategy, no chronicle of battles approved by a staff of military experts. His lively, vivid series of stories in which contemporaneity and human interest vie for predominance.

"Why We Fought" is the argument of an ordinary citizen in favor of the league of nations. It is rather slight in material and texture but presents, in the word of ex-President Taft, a generally introduced and most convincing testimony of a witness who was a soldier on the fighting front.

"Helping France" tells the inspiring story of the reconstructive work of the American Red Cross in the devastated areas of the battle-torn country. The story is graphically narrated by Rutledge Bates, a member of the staff of the Smith College Red Cross unit. She is remembered for her other books, "A Villa in Picardy" and "The Village Shield." "Uncle Sam, Fighter," gives an account, partly impressionistic and partly statistical, of the vigor of determination and energy of enterprise with which the United States drafted, equipped, trained, cared for and utilized the great army of nearly 4,000,000 men which was the determining factor in winning the war for the salvation of civilization and very much of the military aspects and workings of the great war machine are concisely stated by the author, William Atherton Dupuy.

Sartwell Prentice, D. D., out of his experience as a Red Cross chaplain with the Americans in France, has written a graphic book describing the war from an individual angle. He calls it "The War as I Saw It." It is permeated with the atmosphere which is part of the personality of a well-beloved minister of the gospel. His book is simple and sincere and it gives a good idea of what a chaplain does in war, a subject on which many persons are somewhat ignorant.

"The American Front," by Ernest Peixotto, who during the war was a captain of engineers assigned to reproducing in paintings and drawings the multifarious scenes of the war, especially as they concerned the American and allied activities, prints by authority of the War Department a number of his striking drawings, which are supplemented by text equally facile and graceful.

Elsie Janis tells in jolly fashion of her career as an A. E. F. entertainer in her book, "The Big Show." Miss Janis, canceling all her theatrical engagements, entered heartily into the work of entertaining our soldiers in France, and gave more than 600 concerts.

"The Soul of the C. R. B.," by Mme. Saint Reue Tallandier, is the story of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium and northern France, a story that will always glow brightly in the pages of American history for its service and sacrifice. Coming, as it does, from the pen of a noted Frenchwoman, the tribute is all the more effective.

These books view the war from many angles, and in nearly every case are the record of personal participation. Any of them would be admirable for Christmas giving, and most of them would be permanently treasured.

THE SOUL OF THE C. R. B. By Madame Saint Reue Tallandier. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, \$1.75.



CAPTAIN ERNEST PEIXOTTO  
Whose official war pictures are reproduced in "The American Front"

## NOVEL OF NIPPON

Futabatei's Work First Native Fiction to Be Englished

An insight into Japanese customs and domestic life is given in "An Adopted Husband" ("Sono Omakage"), which is a translation from the Japanese of Futabatei by Buhachiro Mitsui and Gregg M. Sinclair.

Tetsuya Ono is the adopted husband, a figure common enough in Japan, but singular to occidental minds. And the other points of the triangle are Tetsuya's wife, Toki-ko, and his wife's sister, Sayo-ko.

Tetsuya turns, finally, from the nagging of his avaricious wife to the shy love of Sayo-ko, whom Toki-ko had oppressed and abused and finally tried to eject from the shelter of the only home she knew.

Then it is that Toki-ko awakens to a realization of the folly of her attitude toward an honest husband and essays to win him back. Sayo-ko, unable to forget that Toki-ko is her sister, sacrifices herself and her love with the pliancy which seems so characteristic of the Japanese in these crises and takes herself beyond the reach of Tetsuya.

The now wretched lover tries to restore his own self-respect and his regard for Toki-ko, but fails, and the close of the book finds him a voluntary outcast.

"An Adopted Husband" is mildly interesting, but like so many translations, has doubtless lost much of its power in the translating, which, it may seem to some readers, is not as skillfully done as the book perhaps deserves. This is described as the very first Japanese novel to be Englished.

AN ADOPTED HUSBAND. Translation from the Japanese of Futabatei. By B. R. Mitsui and Gregg M. Sinclair. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, \$1.75.

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